

## *A Resolution:*

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### **Resolution in Opposition to the American Heritage Rivers Initiative and Funding Therefor**

**Whereas** the American Heritage Rivers Initiative program proclaimed by Executive Order on September 11, 1997, is similar in most important respects to the National, or American, Heritage Area program, which was rejected by the 103<sup>rd</sup> and 104<sup>th</sup> Congresses; and

**Whereas** the implementation of the American Heritage Rivers program by the President's Council on Environmental Quality and twelve other federal agencies violates the separation of powers and is a usurpation of the legislative power by the executive magistrate; and,

**Whereas** federal interference along the Columbia and Cuyahoga rivers has resulted in people being driven from their homes: and,

**Whereas** the establishment of a river staff is contrary to the sworn Congressional testimony of September 24, 1997 wherein Kathleen A. McGinty, the Executive Director of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, stated that there would be no federal expenditures or increase in staff to implement the program; and,

**Whereas** the structure of the American Heritage Rivers program is too nebulously defined to frame knowledgeable debate about its potential problems or merits, if any; and,

**Whereas**, some of the federal agencies involved—the Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Forest Service—regularly take private property without compensation, to the detriment of individual landowners and local communities; and,

**Whereas** the structure and goals of the American Heritage Rivers program appear to have the potential of being destructive of private property owners rights and local control; and

**Whereas** the structure and goals of the American Heritage Rivers program appear to be a device to impose national zoning on local governments and private property owners, which is clearly unconstitutional

**Now be it therefore resolved** by the \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 1.** That the \_\_\_\_\_ is opposed to the designation of any American Heritage River in the State of New Jersey, including particularly the Delaware, Passaic, Rahway and Raritan rivers;

**Section 2.** That the \_\_\_\_\_ requests that the entire geographic area within the political boundaries of \_\_\_\_\_ be excluded from the designation;

**Section 3.** That the \_\_\_\_\_ supports the enactment of H.R. 1842, a bill by Representative Helen Chenoweth that would withhold funding for and terminate the implementation of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative;

**Section 4.** And that the Clerk of the \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to:

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, President  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Christine Todd Whitman, Governor, State of New Jersey,  
State House, Trenton, NJ 08625

Honorable Frank Lautenberg,  
United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Robert Torricelli,  
United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Kathleen A. McGinty, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality,  
Old Executive Office Building, Room 360, Washington, DC 20501

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Go to [Letter](#)

Go to [background piece](#)

[Return to New Jersey Committee of Safety main page](#)